

POETRY.

OLD USTER TO BE.

Dar uster to be a time, you know,  
When folks just join'd de church,  
Dey care'd for sick as best dey could,  
And dat won't very much.

Of course de church must stand ahead;  
But listen what I say:  
You otter take both sides along,  
For de Afros is got de day.

It uster be when some one die  
Dey hafter beat a sweep,  
A few would hafter wash and shroud  
De rest stand off and peep.

But now jest let de big bell toll,  
Crowds come from ever way  
An Afro member now is dead,  
And dat lodge gets de day.

Dat painted box is out of date;  
No wagon hauls our dead,  
And when you sick committees come,  
Dey bring dat daily bread.

Yes, we have caskets, finest sort,  
And tombstones at our sway,  
So you jest well ter come on cross  
For de Afros' got de day.

You straight life folks wid policies,  
Dis ain't your time ter vote  
Now don't think hard we work our side,  
You paddle your own boat.

Dere's many person could been lived  
Now molting in de clay  
For dey had no lodge to care for dem,  
For de Afros is got de day.

You need not say I save up cash  
And dat will bury me,  
For time you pay your nurse and cook,  
And dat big doctor's fee.

Your so-called friends will leave you, bud,  
Jest naked as a jay.  
We take your application now,  
For de Afros is got de day.

Ef you don't believe we keep our word,  
Join us and den you die,  
And let your hant stand off a piece,  
And see us crowding by.

Your spirit, bud, would hafter smile,  
So watch, as well as pray,  
We've said enough you all know well  
For de Afros' got de day.

LIZZIE MANUEL, F. S.,  
Eureka Lodge, McGhee, Ark.

To T. J. Huddleston and Dr. L. T. Miller we bow and give  
three praise.

THE BUILDER.

Down in that clime of Mississippi  
There lived a noble man,  
Where cotton grows as tall as corn.  
The people call him Cousin Tom.

Now, Tom J. Huddleston, I mean,  
Born of pure Afric blood,  
One day while roaming corn and beans  
A big idea his mind, did flood.

One thing my folks like as a nation  
That thing is perfect Organization,  
Thinks he "I'll see if I can be,  
The founder of a recipe."

He thought and thought;  
He dreamed and dreamed;  
The plan, it seemed, would not appear,  
So he went on from year to year.

At last it burst into his wits  
Just as a sun dispels the mists,  
"I know what I w'l constitute,  
An Order; and build an institute."

The S. and D's of A. and A.  
Was organized in a single day;  
They bore the tidings far away  
And now they speak from bay to bay.

We'll give you money when you're sick,  
Hospital service when you're lame,  
Redeem your property when you're clobbered,  
A burial when death your life shall claim.

The people stood aloft at first,  
Negroes so many things start and burst,  
I have no confidence in Tom  
Still this great project he wagged on.

He said, come join us, one and all  
Come go with us, we'll do thee good,  
And if you don't believe my word,  
Die, stick your toes toward the sky.

To try him out they took an' died  
Their purple toes stuck toward the sky,  
And every time their claim was right,  
An Afro-Casket held them tight.

I could say more, but think it best,  
To pause just here and take a rest.  
All honor be to Big! Big! Tom  
Thy spirit will to Heaven be borne.

N. R. FERRELL, Chicago.

There are more motor cars than telephones in the United States.

FOR TAXI SERVICE

GRAND LECTURER'S VISITS.

Bro. G. Z. Johnson, Jr.

Jan. 31st I visited Bro. Sim Archie, at Tra Lake, who had worked very hard and had a good crowd. The Lodge rendered an excellent program with worthy papers and interesting talks. Five new members were added. I installed the officers. A fine supper was served, with Sister Rosa Lee White, President, and Bro. Sim Archie, F. S., Tra Lake Lodge shall forever grow because of its good leaders. Leaders are always remembered because they stand head and shoulders above the crowd.

Feb. 9th by the request of Bro. John Brent, F. S. of Carter Lodge, I visited Cedar Fall M. B. Church. After a soul-stirring sermon by Rev. Pickens (pastor), I was introduced by Bro. Jonathan Brooks, and made a few remarks in favor of the Afros. No member was added.

Feb. 10 I visited Moorhead Lodge, Sister E. C. Mullin, F. S., and had a very pleasant meeting. Two members were added.

Feb. 11th I visited Indianola No. 1, Sister E. R. Crawford, F. S. A fine local program was rendered. No members were added, but had a good crowd of members.

Feb. 14th I visited Tutwiler Lodge, Tutwiler, Bro. H. Porter, F. S. Bro. Porter did his best, and made every effort to put things over the top, but due to the close notice and lateness of the Afro-American Courier, the people did not come out in a large number. One member was added. Fine supper was served.

Feb. 17 I visited Christian Valley Lodge, Lamkin, Sister Mollie Harris, F. S., and Bro. Gee Greer, President. They are few in number but they have the "spirit" to grow 100 strong soon. I was invited to visit them again soon, and help put the program over.

Feb. 20 I visited Estill Lodge, Sister Estella Brand, F. S. They met few in number, but it was due to the fact they do not have a regular place to meet. Two members were added.

I shall be glad to visit any Lodge by request during my off nights in March. Write G. V. JOHNSON, JR., Silver City, Miss., Box 137.

LOSS BY FIRE AT NATCHEZ COLLEGE.

About the 5th of February the Boys' Dormitory at Natchez College burned. The Custodian went to the scene on the seventh and found that it was totally destroyed. There was \$6,000.00 worth of insurance in force on the building and \$500.00 on the contents of the building. The fire damaged one side and the roof of the Girls' Dormitory. This damage amounted to about \$300.00.

The Custodian also spoke at Natchez in the Shiloh Church, pastored by Rev. Blake. This meeting was under the auspices of Mr. Winston, who had well advertised the

coming of the... Natchez College turned out in full force under the direction of Prof. Mosley, the son of Natchez College performed. They played an important part on the program. We also listened to remarkable addresses from Dr. Dumas, of Natchez, Scott, Pastor A. M. E. Church, and Mr. Winston, the son of the late Judge Winston, introduced the Custodian, whose address seemed to have been enjoyed by all who heard him.

After the address Miss Carrie Huddleston and Mrs. Jannie Stringer, both teachers of Natchez College, came forward and wrote the applications for the Custodian. We received while there 25 applicants and a campaign was also staged for 100 new members, which we hope to have by March 6th, at which time the Custodian will return and obligate the big membership.

While in Natchez Mr. Winston carried the Custodian to many places of prominence. The Charity Hospital where the Superintendent freely admitted us, with the aid of a guide we visited the Colored wards. We saw about 40 or 50 Colored patients, who seemed to be suffering from different forms of accidents and diseases. We were also carried through the operating rooms. We regarded it to be one of the best regulated Hospitals that we have ever visited. We also visited one of the oldest Banking Institutions in the State. We also went to the place where John R. Lynch stayed when quite a youth and probably a Slave. It seems that the whole city of Natchez united them in their request for the return of the Custodian.

GRAND LECTURER'S ITINERARY FOR MARCH.  
Bro. G. V. Johnson, Jr.

- Mar. 3rd—Lovefeast, Louise, Bro. Peter Pool, F. S.
- Mar. 5th—Pleasant Green, Silver City, Bro. W. R. Robinson, F. S.
- Mar. 6th—Woodyard Community, Belzoni, Sister Georgia Cuba, F. S.
- Mar. 7th—Zion Travelers, Isola, Sister Minnie Tatum, F. S.
- Mar. 10th—Calvary, Midnight, Bro. F. L. James, F. S.
- Mar. 12th—Inverness No. 2, Inverness, Sister Mattie Ford, F. S.
- Mar. 14th—Flying Eagle, Indianola, Sister Millie Barnes, F. S.
- Mar. 17th—Kosciusko, Kosciusko, Sister D. L. Turner, F. S.
- Mar. 18th—Mt. Pisgah, Goodman, Sister S. E. Crawford, F. S.
- Mar. 19th—Durant No. 1, Durant, Sister Blanche Anderson, F. S.
- Mar. 20th—Pickens No. 93, Bro. Elijah Southerland, F. S.
- Mar. 21st—Mt. Zion, Vaughans, Bro. T. H. Harris, F. S.
- Mar. 24th—Clay Lodge, Lamkin, Sister Fannie Hunley, F. S.
- Mar. 27th—Lampley, Inverness, Bro. James Ball, F. S.
- Mar. 28th—Doddsville Lodge, Doddsville, Bro. H. L. Anderson, F. S.

Everytime you boost the Order, you help the race.

The Afro-American  
Sons & Daughters'  
Hospital

Proclaims the merits of the DANDEE HAIR DRESSING, a superior Hair Dressing that is growing into the minds of the Afro-American Sons & Daughters and their friends.

The DANDEE CHEMICAL CO. saw where they could help through our great organization by giving to the Afro Hospital. Now to do this systematically they decided to give the Hospital 1c on each Jar Hair Dressing sold in the United States. We have such a wonderful gift because we are organized, which means that we can reap the benefits through an organized source of distribution. Think, Friends! When the Afros were started, individuals co-operated to put it over, and it has made the Afros an organization with almost unlimited resources from most every angle. We have won the valued friendship of our White friends so much that organizations are now seeking to co-operate.

My friends, there is no word that looms so large in this civilization of today as CO-OPERATION. The experience and learning of man has taught us that we must co-operate if we are to carry out the laws of God and Nature.

We wish to express our appreciation to the DANDEE CHEMICAL CO. for their co-operation, because we are aware of the fact that when organizations of magnitude begin to work together, there is no force except that of God that can stop our progress.

WHEN IT IS HAIR DRESSING THAT  
WE NEED—THINK OF DANDEE

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WE GIVE THE  
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LUXITE

SHOES FOR THE FAMILY

FIRE AT NATCHEZ COLEGE.

The destruction of the Boys' dormitory at Natchez college a few days ago was a great loss to the Baptists of the State. The building was worth twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars and was partially covered with insurance to the amount of six thousand (\$6,000.00) dollars.

This is the first year of our new President, Prof. J. H. Mosley. He has wrought well this year, having secured more than three hundred (300) students, which had already been housed in quarters. But we are happy to state that Prof. Mosley measured up to this new situation admirably. He has now he has only lost three or four boys as a result of the destruction of the dormitory.

As to the Baptist family that the destruction of the dormitory is but a challenge to our love for old Natchez College. Already many are planning to give as much as one hundred dollars to the boys' dormitory with a splendid time for every Baptist from Natchez to show his loyalty.